

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page to replace the original Abstract presently in the application.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A composite for use in the aircraft construction industry ~~includes~~ ~~comprise~~ an optical transmission device ~~means~~, such as an optical [[fibre,]] fiber, embedded within a carrier. The optical transmission device ~~means~~ is provided with a high-quality optical interface surface which provides ~~a means~~ for optical connection to the optical transmission means from outside the carrier. The optical interface surface is provided as part of a micro-optical component which processes the optical signals to improve light extraction from a supply to the optical transmission means. The buried optical transmission device ~~means~~ is accessed by a passageway formed in the carrier to the interface surface. If the passageway is formed prior to completion of finishing processes on the composite, a protective plug is provided to close the passageway until the optical connection is required.